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OBITUARY



Halbert Marion Harris ca. 1950 (1900–2000): Biographical Sketch, Described Taxa, and List of Publications on Heteroptera

The death of Halbert Harris on August 18, 2000, at the age of 100 years, in a real sense brings to a close a period of remarkable advance in the study of Heteroptera in the United States in the first half of the 20th century. Prof. Harris was the youngest of the lowa State faculty that contributed so much to this discipline from the time of Herbert Osborn to the end of Harris's productive years. This was a tradition that flourished under Carl Drake and Harry Knight and continued in other places through the work of numerous graduate students such as J. C. M. Carvalho, Richard Froeschner, Leonard Kelton, Joseph Schaffner, James Slater, and many others.

Halbert Harris was born in Cascilla, Mis-

sissippi, on July 18, 1900. He received his B.S.A. at Mississippi A & M College in 1923 and entered the program at Iowa State College later that year as an M.S. student and assistant entomologist. He became an instructor in 1924 and was an assistant professor from 1925 to 1935, an associate professor from 1942 to 1961. He married Katherine Day of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1927. She remained his competent helpmate for the rest of her life. They had one son, Halbert M. Harris, Jr., who has lived in upstate New York since the late 1950s.

H. M. Harris served as a counselor at the junior college at lowa State from 1924 to 1942 and became the chairman of the De-

partment of Zoology and Entomology in 1946, a position he held until 1961. In that year he left lowa State for a position with the Ford Foundation as a consultant for the Plant Protection India Field Office in New Delhi and became a visiting professor at the University of Agricultural Sciences at Bangalore. There he oversaw the development of the Ph.D. program. In 1964, he represented the Entomological Society of America at the Silver Anniversary Celebration of the Entomological Society of India. He returned to the United States early in the 1970s and after a short stay at Iowa State, he retired from there in 1972. He was persuaded at that time to go to Louisiana State University by the late Dale Newsom, the department head, and Edward C. Burns, who had received his Ph.D. from Iowa State. Dr. Harris was an official visiting professor at Louisiana State University from 1972 to 1980 and was listed as retired from 1981 to 1989. According to Joan B. Chapin, a good friend and colleague, Dr. Harris left his office at Louisiana State in the summer of 1980 because he was afraid he was occupying space needed by faculty and students.

As a young student at Iowa State, Halbert Harris almost immediately came under the overwhelming enthusiasm of Carl Drake, who initiated his interest in the Nabidae. His M.S. degree, awarded in 1925, was based on a study of the nabid fauna of the Gulf States, For his Ph.D. (1928), Harris completed a monographic study of the North American Nabidae. In the published monograph (1928), he described a new species of Metatropiphorus from Puerto Rico as drakei, commenting: "It is my pleasure to name this species after Dr. Carl J. Drake who is responsible for my interest in the Nabidae and who presented me with the first specimens of the genus Metatropiphorus that it ever was my privilege to examine."

Harris's work on the Heteroptera covered approximately 20 years. In that period, he was the author or coauthor of 82 papers in which he described 10 new genera, one new subgenus, 206 new species, and 8 new varieties in 13 families. Most of his primary types are deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, with exception of the Berytidae, which are in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The bulk of his collection, totaling more than 20,000 specimens, is in the Louisiana State Arthropod Museum (Department of Entomology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge).

To appreciate Harris's contributions to entomology and hemipterology, we should consider his time at Iowa State, his association with colleagues there, and the stature of entomology at that institution during his productive years. Perhaps the most important of his associations was that with Carl Drake, who was the Department Head when Harris arrived and remained so throughout most of Harris's tenure there. Drake was a phenomenon, one who literally worked almost all the time: a driven taxonomist, he was enthralled by the beauty and variety of the hemipteran fauna. At the same time, he was also the State Entomologist, a position he held during two crucial periods in the history of economic entomology in Iowa. In the 1930s with the dust bowl devastating the Great Plains, an enormous outbreak of chinch bugs occurred, and it is obvious that Drake and his colleagues spent a major part of their time studying this outbreak and suggesting control measures. For example "Burn the Chinch Bug" was the title of one widely dispersed paper.

In the 1940s the European corn borer invaded lowa. This pest threatened the welfare of a state whose wealth and well-being were based largely on a corn-hog economy. Harris was involved in economic work during the summer months of many of his years at Iowa State. Unfortunately, we do not have the space nor the ability to detail his work in this area. He was also active in political entomological circles and became a leader in the North Central Branch of the American Association of Economic Entomologists (AAEE). When the AAEE merged with the Entomological Society of America (ESA), he became an important figure nationally in the latter society. In 1961, he was in fact elected President-Elect of the Entomological Society of America, a post he was unable to fulfill as we shall explain. As further evidence of Harris's involvement with applied entomology, we note his affiliation with ESA's Section E, extension and regulatory entomology, rather than with Section A and entomologists interested mainly in systematics, morphology, and evolution.

In hemipterology, Drake's habit of working night and day, seven days a week, was extremely stimulating to a young worker, but was a difficult routine for a man with a wife and an infant son to follow. When one views the work of Harris from the perspective of someone who chose and mastered a difficult group, the Nabidae, and for many years was recognized as the leading authority, and who at the same time worked with Drake on various other families (particularly the Gerridae and Veliidae), it becomes apparent that Harris was deeply involved in all of their joint papers. That Drake at the same time was able to concentrate on his specialty, the Tingidae or lace bugs, and to describe new taxa in other groups that interested him, indicates his high regard for Harris. In the last years of their collaborative efforts, Drake even made Harris the senior author of several of their papers (not a frequent habit with Drake).

This obituary is not the place to attempt a critical analysis of the work of Harris or that of Drake and Harris. We believe, however, that it is fair to say that the quality of their longer joint papers reflects the strong influence of Harris's involvement. In their coauthored papers, more frequently than in Drake's own papers, we find keys to genera and species and rather detailed descriptions and redescriptions.

Harris will be remembered especially for his work on the Nabidae. His 1928 monograph has remained the definitive work on the family for North America and was the unrivaled work on the group until I. M. Kerzhner, working in Russia, came to dominate the family on a world basis.

Since one of us (JAS) knew Harris personally and served under him when the latter was the head of Iowa State's Department of Zoology and Entomology, it is perhaps only fitting to mention Harris's abrupt departure from the field of hemipterology about 1946 and from Iowa State in 1961. The following indented text should be read in the context of "I" equals J. A. Slater.

I joined the faculty of Iowa State in the fall of 1947 as an instructor to teach introductory Entomology, and several other courses. It was an interesting experience. After two decades of close relationship, Drake and Harris had had a falling out before I arrived. Without going into details, it had become acrimonious and resulted in the removal of Drake as the department head and his replacement by Harris. This administrative shift created a difficult situation; the faculty obviously had been deeply divided during the events that led to the change in department heads. As a result, I felt that Harris never could consult and discuss departmental policies with his faculty as openly as he might have been able to had he come in from outside the college. As department head, he was crippled by his inability to feel at ease with his faculty, and from time to time this impaired his relationships with younger faculty members. I believe that this was the direct cause of his ceasing to write papers on the Hemiptera. He was knowledgeable and helpful but handicapped because he did not have much of the necessary collection available once C. J. Drake's collection became inaccessible. During the late 1940s and early 1950s, there is evidence of his continued interest in Hemiptera from his work on a large bibliography. It looks as though he intended to prepare a

sequel to H. M. Parshley's bibliography of North American Hemiptera.

Iowa State's reputation in hemipterology and in entomology in general was very high at the time Harris was there. I recall that it was considered one of the very top institutions for graduate study. While I was there, it attracted Jose Carvalho (in parasitology primarily), Richard Froeschner, and Arlie Wilson, among others, and brought Philip Bonhag in as a new faculty member. The graduate group was unique in my experience. Most were highly motivated, hardworking veterans of World War II—"we want to see the lights on longer than in the Chemistry Building"—but the group also was mature and capable of doing a great deal of independent work. This was a good thing because I have only sad memories of the state of microscopes and other equipment (it was nice to be able to see the pretarsal structures of Miridae a few years later).

By 1961, a number of young faculty had moved on and the department, which had sometimes chafed under these events. made it difficult for Harris to remain. His son also believes that he was disappointed when he was not offered the position of Chair or Dean of what eventually became the College of Arts and Sciences. Although it meant relinquishing the Presidency of the Entomological Society of America, the Ford Foundation's offer to work in India was too attractive to turn down. He thus resigned from Iowa State and, to my knowledge, his only subsequent association with that institution was some years later to stay only long enough to qualify for retirement, to move his collection, and to sell his important library.

My recollections of H. M. Harris are of a tall gangly man, very friendly, with traditional southern hospitality. With his wife Katherine, they were very kind to young faculty families, often inviting them to their home for festive occasions. I met Harris on two subsequent occasions: at the International Congress of Entomology in London in 1965 and later at a meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Dallas in 1973. On both occasions it was obvious that in his mind he had never given up his interest and enthusiasm for the Hemiptera, and we had good chats about his interest in returning to active work on the Anthocoridae and Nabidae.

H. M. Harris enjoyed a long and productive career in entomology and received several honors. He was a member of the Editorial Committee that produced the initial volume of the Annual Review of Entomology (1956) and was an ESA Governing Board member from 1954 to 1956 (Section E). He was one of the few entomologists who have been elected as an Honorary Member of ESA (ca. 1970) and as an ESA Fellow (ca. 1985). Dr. Harris made substantial contributions to hemipterology during the first half of the twentieth century. He was a complex man capable of first-class work. Under other circumstances, he might well have contributed a great deal more than he actually did.

LIST OF DESCRIBED TAXA

An asterisk (*) indicates taxa that are known junior synonyms.

ANTHOCORIDAE

Acompocoris feratis Drake & Harris 1926 Lasiochiloides socialis Drake & Harris 1926 Lasiochilus comitialis Drake & Harris 1926 Lasiochilus hirtellus Drake & Harris 1926 Lasiochilus mirificus Drake & Harris 1926 Macrotracheliella laevis var. floridana Drake & Harris 1926

Nidicola Harris & Drake 1941

Nidicola marginata Harris & Drake 1941 Plochiocoris comptulus Drake & Harris 1926 Scoloposcelis basilicus Drake & Harris 1926 Scoloposcelis mississippensis Drake & Harris 1926* Scoloposcelis occidentalis Drake & Harris 1926 Temnostethus fastigiatus Drake & Harris 1926 Tetraphleps edacis Drake & Harris 1926* Tetraphleps novitus Drake & Harris 1926 Tetraphleps pingreensis Drake & Harris 1926 Tetraphleps profugus Drake & Harris 1926* Xenotracheliella Drake & Harris 1926 Xenotracheliella inimica Drake & Harris 1926 Xenotracheliella oculata Drake & Harris 1926 Xenotracheliella vicaria Drake & Harris 1926 Xylocoris betulinus Drake & Harris 1926

ARADIDAE

Acaricoris Harris & Drake 1944 Acaricoris ignotus Harris & Drake 1944 Allelocoris Drake & Harris 1944 Allelocoris dryadis Drake & Harris 1944 Asterocoris Drake & Harris 1944 Asterocoris anstralis Drake & Harris 1944 Eretmocoris Harris & Drake 1944 Glyptocoris Harris & Drake 1944 Glyptocoris sejunctus Harris & Drake 1944 Notoplocoris potensis Drake & Harris 1944

BERYTIDAE

Acanthophysa idaho Harris 1941* Jalysus balli Harris 1941* Parajalysus namms Harris 1943 Parajalysus pallidus Harris 1943 Phaconotus Harris 1943 Phaconotus ensis Harris 1943 Protacanthus nexus Harris 1943 Xenoloma Harris 1943 Xenoloma princeps Harris 1943

ENICOCEPHALIDAE

Systelloderus inusitatus Drake & Harris 1927 Systelloderus iowensis Drake & Harris 1927 Systelloderus terrenus Drake & Harris 1927*

Gerridae

Brachymetra anduze Drake & Harris 1942 Brachymetra mera Harris & Drake 1945 Cylindrostethus hungerfordi Drake & Harris 1934 Cylindrostethus palmaris Drake & Harris 1934 Eobates Drake & Harris 1934 Eobates morrisoni Drake & Harris 1934 Gerris ampla Drake & Harris 1938 Gerris beieri Drake & Harris 1934 Gerris carmelus Drake & Harris 1932 Gerris dissortis Drake & Harris 1930

Gerris firma Drake & Harris 1938 Gerris kahli Drake & Harris 1934 Gerris summatis Drake & Harris 1934 Halobatopsis delectus Drake & Harris 1941 Halobatopsis parvulus Drake & Harris 1935 Limnogonus aduncus Drake & Harris 1932 Limnogonus celeris Drake & Harris 1934 Limnogonus genticus Drake & Harris 1934 Limnogonus ignotus Drake & Harris 1934 Limnogonus profugus Drake & Harris 1930 Linnogonus recens Drake & Harris 1934 Limnogonus recurvus Drake & Harris 1930 Linunogonus visendus Drake & Harris 1934 Metrobates cubanus Drake & Harris 1932. Metrobates fugientis Drake & Harris 1945 Metrobates laudatus Drake & Harris 1937 Metrobates spissus Drake & Harris 1932 Potamobates osborni Drake & Harris 1928 Rheumatobates carvalhoi Drake & Harris 1944 Rheumatobates clanis Drake & Harris 1932 Rheumatobates minutus var. flavidus Drake & Harris 1942

Rheumatobates vegatus Drake & Harris 1942Rheumatobates wrighti Drake & Harris 1937Telmatometra panamensis Drake & Harris 1941Telmatometra rozeboomi Drake & Harris 1937Tenagogonus celocis Drake & Harris 1931Trepobates becki Drake & Harris 1932Trepobates comitialis Drake & Harris 1928*Trepobates floridensis Drake & Harris 1928Trepobates knighti Drake & Harris 1928Trepobates trepidus Drake & Harris 1928

HEBRIDAE

Hebrus buenoi Drake & Harris 1943 Hebrus comatus Drake & Harris 1943 Hebrus ecuadoris Drake & Harris 1943 Hebrus gloriosus Drake & Harris 1943 Hebrus hungerfordi Drake & Harris 1943 Hebrus nubilus Drake & Harris 1943 Hebrus paulus Drake & Harris 1943 Hebrus priscus Drake & Harris 1943 Hebrus pudoris Drake & Harris 1943 Hebrus usingeri Drake & Harris 1943 Merragata sessoris Drake & Harris 1943

MESOVELIIDAE

Mesovelia hackeri Harris & Drake 1941 *Mesovelia hambletoni* Drake & Harris 1946

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Mesovelia zeteki Harris & Drake 1941

NABIDAE

Alloeorhynchus bakeri Harris 1930 Allocorhynchus bellipotens Harris 1940 Alloeorhynchus chinai Harris 1927 Alloeorhnchus delicatus Harris 1928 Alloeorhynchus distanti Harris 1940 (new name) Alloeorhynchus flavomarginatus Harris 1928 Alloeorhychuis furcens Harris 1940 Alloeorhynchus incertus Harris 1940 Alloeorhynchus instabilis Harris 1940 Alloeorhynchus nigrofasciatus Harris 1928 Allocorhynchus gegalis Harris 1940 Alloeorhynchus rubrofasciatus Harris 1937 Alloeorhynchus venator Harris 1940 Aphelonotus confusus Harris 1931 Aphelonotus fraterculus Harris 1931 Aphelonotus major Harris 1931 Aphelonotus medius Harris 1931 Arbela bakeri Harris 1938 Arbela cheesmanae Harris 1938 Arbela confusa Harris 1938 Arbela deusta Harris 1938 Arbela immista Harris 1938 Arbela inerma Harris 1938 Arbela insularis Harris 1938 Arbela pacifica Harris 1938 Arbela papuana Harris 1938 Arbela splendida Harris 1938 Camarochilus Harris 1930 Carthasis championi Harris 1928 Carthasis distinctus Harris 1925 Carthasis gracilis Harris 1925 Carthasis uhleri Harris 1928 Gorpis chinai Harris 1939 Gorpis clavatus Harris 1939 Gorpis flavicans Harris 1930 Gorpis longispinis Harris 1939 Gorpis neglectus Harris 1939 Gorpis papuanus Harris 1939 Gorpis philippinensis Harris 1930 Gorpis simillinnis Harris 1939 Metatropiphorus drakei Harris 1928 Nabis alternatus var. uniformis Harris 1928 Nabis deceptivus Harris 1928 Nabis dentipes Harris 1928 (new name) Nabis ferus var. pallidipennis Harris 1928* Nabis gerhardi Harris 1928

Nabis jaczewskii Harris 1931 Nabis lovetti Harris 1925 Nabis panamensis Harris 1926 Nabis paranensis Harris 1930 Pagasa bimaculata Harris 1930 Pagasa fasciventris Harris 1940 Pagasa fusca var. nigripes Harris 1926 Pagasa planipes Harris 1939 Phorticus abdominalis Harris 1940 Phorticus flavus var. breviatus Harris 1940 Phorticus speciosus Harris 1928 Phorticus socialis Harris 1940 Phorticus variegatus Harris 1930 Prostemma belidis Harris 1940

PACHYNOMIDAE

Pachynomus africanus Harris 1940 Pachynomus (Camarochilus) americanus Harris 1930 Pachynomus (Camarochilus) confusus Harris 1930

Pentatomidae

Allopodops Harris & Johnston 1936 Allopodops mississippiensis Harris & Johnston 1936 Coenus inermis Harris & Johnston 1936

REDUVIIDAE

Elasmocoris comptus Harris & Drake 1944 *Sirthenea anduzei* Drake & Harris 1945 *Sirthenea peruviana* Drake & Harris 1945 *Vescia nostratus* Drake & Harris 1945

RHOPALIDAE

Arhyssus barberi Harris 1942 Arhyssus brevipilus Harris 1942* Arhyssus crassus Harris 1942 Arhyssus usingeri Harris 1942 Harmostes confinis Harris 1942 Harmostes fusiformis Harris 1942 Harmostes gemellus Harris 1942 Harmostes insitivus Harris 1942 Harmostes imitabilis Harris 1942 Harmostes petulans Harris 1942 Harmostes splendens Harris 1944 Stictopleurus knighti Harris 1942

SALDIDAE

Saldula severini Harris 1943

VELIIDAE

Halobatopsis spiniveutris Drake & Harris 1936 Microvelia diffidentis Drake & Harris 1933 Microvelia irrasa Drake & Harris 1928 Microvelia oreadis Drake & Harris 1928 Microvelia pudoris Drake & Harris 1936 Microvelia sarpta Drake & Harris 1936 Microvelia summersi Drake & Harris 1928 Microvelia turmalis Drake & Harris 1933 Microvelia venustatis Drake & Harris 1933 Rhagovelia ainsliei Drake & Harris 1933 Rhagovelia becki Drake & Harris 1936 Rhagovelia callida Drake & Harris 1935 Rhagovelia calopa Drake & Harris 1927 Rhagovelia cuspidis Drake & Harris 1933 Rhagovelia excellentis Drake & Harris 1927* Rhagovelia gregalis Drake & Harris 1927* Rhagovelia hambletoni Drake & Harris 1933 Rhagovelia hirtipes Drake & Harris 1927 Rhagovelia ignota Drake & Harris 1933 Rhagovelia knighti Drake & Harris 1927 Rhagovelia mira Drake & Harris 1938 Rhagovelia panda Drake & Harris 1935 Rhagovelia plana Drake & Harris 1933 Rhagovelia regalis Drake & Harris 1927* Rhagovelia reposita Drake & Harris 1931 Rhagovelia sinuata var. calcaris Drake & Harris 1935 Rhagovelia tantilla Drake & Harris 1933 Rhagovelia velocis Drake & Harris 1935 Rhagovelia verusta Drake & Harris 1935 Velia australis Drake & Harris 1938 Velia capillata Drake & Harris 1933 Velia capillata var. cognata Drake & Harris 1933 Velia egregia Drake & Harris 1935 Velia hungerfordi Drake & Harris 1933 Velia kahli Drake & Harris 1933 Velia mexa Drake & Harris 1933 Velia parilis Drake & Harris 1933 Velia recens Drake & Harris 1935 Velia splendoris Drake & Harris 1933 Velia tersa Drake & Harris 1941 Velia virtutis Drake & Harris 1935 Velia willei Drake & Harris 1940

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS ON HETEROPTERA

1925

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